

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02

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FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2469

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD MTN

SUBJECT: US-SOUTH AFRICA MTN AGRICULTURAL CONSULTATIONS

REF: 76 MTN GENEVA 4216

1. SUMMARY: MTN DEL HELD BRIEF CONSULTATION MAY 16 WITH SOUTH AFRICA (RSA) ON SOUTH AFRICA'S NOTIFICATION AGAINST THE US UNDER GROUP AGRICULTURE'S "OTHER PRODUCTS" PROCEDURES. RSA DEL CORRECTED ITS NOTIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO PILCHRDS AND REQUESTED TSUS US IMPORT STATISTICS FOR WOOL PRODUCTS IN ORDER TO PINPOINT SPECIFIC RSA INTERESTS
END SUMMAY

2. US DEL (KOENIG, MCNAMARA, DRAZEK) OPENED CONSULTATIONS BY NOTING THAT THE US IS WILLING TO DISCUSS ALL ITEMS
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NOTIFIED AGAINST IT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO WHERE THEY WILL ACTUALLY BE NEGOTIATED, BUT POINTED OUT THAT US DOES NOT CONSIDER FISH TO BE AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT. RSA DEL (LOWRY, PIENAAR, AND SAULEX) TOOK NOT AND EXPRESSED PLEASURE ABOUT US POSITION SINCE EC HAD REFUSED DSCUSSING WITH SOUTH AFRICA WOOL AND COTTON UNDER GROUP AGRICULTURE PROECDURES, SAYING THAT THEY WILL BE DEALT WITH IN

THE TARIFFS GROUP ALONG WITH OTHER PRODUCTS IN CHAPTERS 25-99 OF THE BTN.

3. RSA DEL EXPLAINED THAT ITS NOTIFICATION OF PICHARDS UNDER TSUS 112.36 WAS INCORRECT WINE, JUDGING BY US IMPORT STATISTICS AVAILABLE TO RSA, PILCHARDS MUST ENTER US UNDER TSUS 112.20 AD 112.22 (CANNED SARDINES). US DEL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS IS PROBABLY THE CASE. IN REPLY TO RSA QUESTION, USDEL OBSERVED THAT SARDINE IMPORTS HAVE MORE THAN ONCE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF INDSTRY COMPLAINTS AND US TARIFFS MUST THEREFORE BE CONSIDERED SOMEWHAT SENSITIVE.

4. RSA DEL WAS UNASBLE AT THIS TIME TO SPECIFY WHICH WOOL TARIFF LINES ARE OF INEREST TO SOUTH AFRICA, WITH THE EXCPTION OF 307.02 AND 307.04 (WOOL WASTE) AND 307.50 (WOOL TOPS). MAIN PROBLEM SEEMED TO BE A LACK OF DETAILED TRADE STATISTICS AND AN OUTDATED TSUS. RSA DEL REQUESTED AND US DEL PROVIDED TARIFF LINE IMPORT DATA AND A COPY OF THE 1976 TSUS SECTION COVERING WOOL (SCHEDULE 3, PART I, SUBPART C) AS REVISED THROUGH SUPPLEMENT 5. RSA DEL AGREED TO PROVIDE MORE PRECISE INDICATION OF ITS INTERESTS BASED ON THIS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

5. RSA ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN EFFECT OF US WOOL POGAM ON US ABILITY TO LOWER DUTIES ON WOOL AND WOOL PRODUCTS GIVEN FACT THAT PORTION OF DUTIES COLLECTED ARE USED AS PAYMENTS TO PRODUCERS. HE SUGGESTED THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOO HIGH DUTIES COULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF STIUMULATING USE OF SYNTHETIC FIBERS. US DEL EXPLAINED THAT TOTAL PAYMENTS TO PRODUCERS UNDER THE WOOL PROGRAM ARE LIMITED TO 70 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL OF DUTIES COLLECTED ON IMPORTS OF WOOL AND WOOL MANUFACTURES, AND THAT US ALSO MAINTAINS FAIRLY SIGNIFICANT DUTIES ON SYNTHETIC FIBERS. HOWEVER, THE WOOL PROGRAM ALSO PROVIDES FOR PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR WOOL AND IN 1975 \$40.9 MILLION WAS DEDUCTED FROM PRODUCER PAYMENS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

6. RSA DEL QUERIED WHETHER US WOULD BE NOTIFYING SOUTH AFRICA IN THE FUTURE UNDER GROUP AGRICULTURE PROCEDURES. US DEL OBSERVED THAT HTHE RSA NOTIFICATION RESERVED THE RIGHT TO ADD FURTHER ITEMS AT A LATER STAGE, AND THE US ALSO RESERVED ITS RIGHT TO NOTIFY SOUTH AFRICA AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE. ON THE QUESTION OF REPORTING, RSA DEL INDICATED THAT IT WOULD MOST LIKELY WISH TO SUBMIT A UNILATERAL REPORT TO THE GROUP

AGRICULTURE. WALKER

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